

AB 1943

Increased Standards for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Sponsor: Council of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

BACKGROUND

As primary care providers, acupuncturists are seeking to increase professional standards to match those of other primary care practitioners in the state of California. Increased professional standards would result in increased quality of care for consumers and produce a pool of more confident and experienced acupuncture practitioners to meet the growth in demand for acupuncture treatment. Currently, eleven (11) of the 26 acupuncture schools in California require a minimum of 3,000+ curriculum hours. Five (5) of these schools require in excess of 3,200 hours (Pacific College of Oriental Medicine New York, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine San Diego, Mercy College, New York College of Holistic Health, and Northwest Institute of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine).

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF AB 1943

Existing law, the Acupuncture Licensure Act, regulates the practice and licensure of acupuncture and establishes the Acupuncture Board to enforce and administer these provisions. The board also establishes standards for the approval of schools and colleges offering education and training in the practice of an acupuncturist.

- ☐ **AB 1943** specifies a minimum of 3,200 hours of study for licensure to practice acupuncture by January 1, 2003.
- ☐ **AB 1943** bill specifies a minimum of 4,000 hours of study and practice in specified areas for licensure as an acupuncturist or doctor of Oriental Medicine for students entering study by January 1, 2007 or applying for licensure after January 1, 2011.
- ☐ **AB 1943** would require a member of clinical faculty to have 5 years experience as a licensed acupuncturist and would provide that board approval of schools and colleges is valid for a period determined by the board, not to exceed 4 years.
- ☐ **AB 1943** would also require the board to establish a review process and would authorize the board to revoke, suspend, or otherwise place conditions upon a school or college if the entity fails to meet the requisite criteria at any time.
- ☐ **AB 1943** would delete the requirement that acupuncture or technique practiced involve the application of a needle to the human body in order for the act to be a misdemeanor.
- ☐ **AB 1943** would also add the titles "doctor of oriental medicine" and "Chinese herbal medicine" as terms the use of which constitute holding oneself out as engaging in acupuncture and prevents an unlicensed person from using these titles.

If you support this legislation please send letters to:

Assembly Member Judy Chu
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For more information, please contact Bill Wong at william.wong@asm.ca.gov.